

SECRET NOFORN

AHB

IB - 331/63
21 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Manufacturing and Services Division, ORR

ATTENTION : [REDACTED] MS/D

25X1

THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS

FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)

SUBJECT : Sian Arsenals

REFERENCES : (1) ORR Requirement No. C-RR3-80,522/63 (Revision)
(2) CIA/PID Project No. C 1415-63

1. This memorandum is in response to the referenced requirement which asks for analysis of arsenals at Sian including production activity and expansion since [REDACTED]

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2. The enclosed information provides comparative coverage of five installations in Sian and its environs from [REDACTED] Annotated enlargements and comparative coverage of each facility illustrates the expansion over the four year period. In addition, each installation is discussed individually in the following text. This memorandum is based on analysis of the following coverage: [REDACTED]

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respectively.

3. The arsenals at Sian roughly encircle the city. These plants have been outlined on a reference map (see enclosure CIA/PID/IB-P-735/63) and given a number designation which corresponds to the accompanying photo enlargements and descriptions.

4. Area 1, Explosives Plant is located south of Hu-hsian, approximately twenty-one nautical miles southwest of Sian. It is the largest plant of the complex and has undergone the greatest expansion [REDACTED]

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The processing area is rectangular with at least four rail lines entering the west end. The facilities are still under construction with many pipe ditches still open, overhead pipeline supports complete but with no pipes present and some buildings under construction. From analysis it appears that a few buildings are still to be added. At the current stage of construction it is clear that the flow of materials will be from the west to the east.

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There will be a probable acid section, primary processing section, secondary processing section, woodworking and fabrication section and other unidentified sections. A test area containing three large and two smaller test ranges is located adjacent to the production area and a well secured explosives storage area, containing four large and one small revetted building, is located southeast of the production area.

The exact type of explosive to be manufactured can not be determined at the present time; however, the presence of the test ranges indicates that a propellant such as nitrocellulose is probably to be produced.

Considerable expansion was observed as forty-two new buildings were added between [redacted] of which three were started [redacted] It should be noted that the [redacted] covered only a portion of the installation. Between [redacted] no new buildings were started. Night lights have been installed throughout the production area. Analysis of the facilities did not reveal a metals processing section.

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5. Area 2, a Possible Munitions Research and Development Center, is located 3.5 nautical miles south southwest of Sian. This plant is completely secured by a solid wall and is only road served.

This installation can be divided into three functional sections:

1. Administration and research section, 2. Production section and
3. Testing section.

Within this plant there is an exceptionally large proportion of administration type buildings. One possible explanation is that they are being used for research and development. The exact type of explosives work being conducted here can not be determined at the present time.

[redacted] no buildings under construction could be discerned. In [redacted] ver, the fenced area had been extended, eighteen new buildings had been built, two others were under construction, and two significant additions were completed. Currently this plant appears inactive.

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6. Area 3, an Explosive Storage Area, is located 8.5 nautical miles north of Sian near an aircraft engine plant. This installation is rail and road served. Although it is not a production facility it has been included in this memorandum for completeness.

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7. Area 4, an Explosives Plant, is located 8.5 nautical miles west northwest of Sian. It is both rail and road served and is secured by a solid wall.

The secured area can be divided into two sections; inert storage section and a production section. The administrative facilities are just outside the secured area and the revetted explosive storage facility is located some distance to the south (see insert photo).

Although no acid section is discernable, the long processing buildings at this plant are similar to those at installation No. 1 of this memorandum. The large rail-served warehouses for inert storage are typical of those used to store cellulose (cotton linters or wood cellulose). If this was one of the raw materials and nitric acid were shipped in then the explosive produced could be nitrocellulose. This plant appears to be inactive at the time of the latest photo coverage.

[] the plant appeared to be in a stage of major construction, 25X1
which apparently was completed [] The early coverage revealed 25X1
10 buildings under construction. Nine of these were finished [] 25X1
along with three other new buildings and one significant addition.
Additional revetments and more landscaping is also observed [] 25X1
A large area on the northern side of the installation, formerly
thought to be a processing facility [] has been almost removed 25X1
[] This area is now annotated as a possible construction 25X1
facility.

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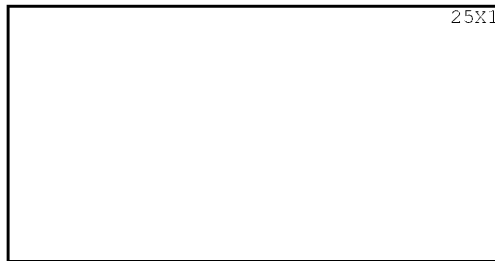


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9. The photo analysts on this project were [redacted] and [redacted] who may be contacted on extension 2547 should you have further questions regarding this project. This memorandum and enclosures completes the reference requirement.

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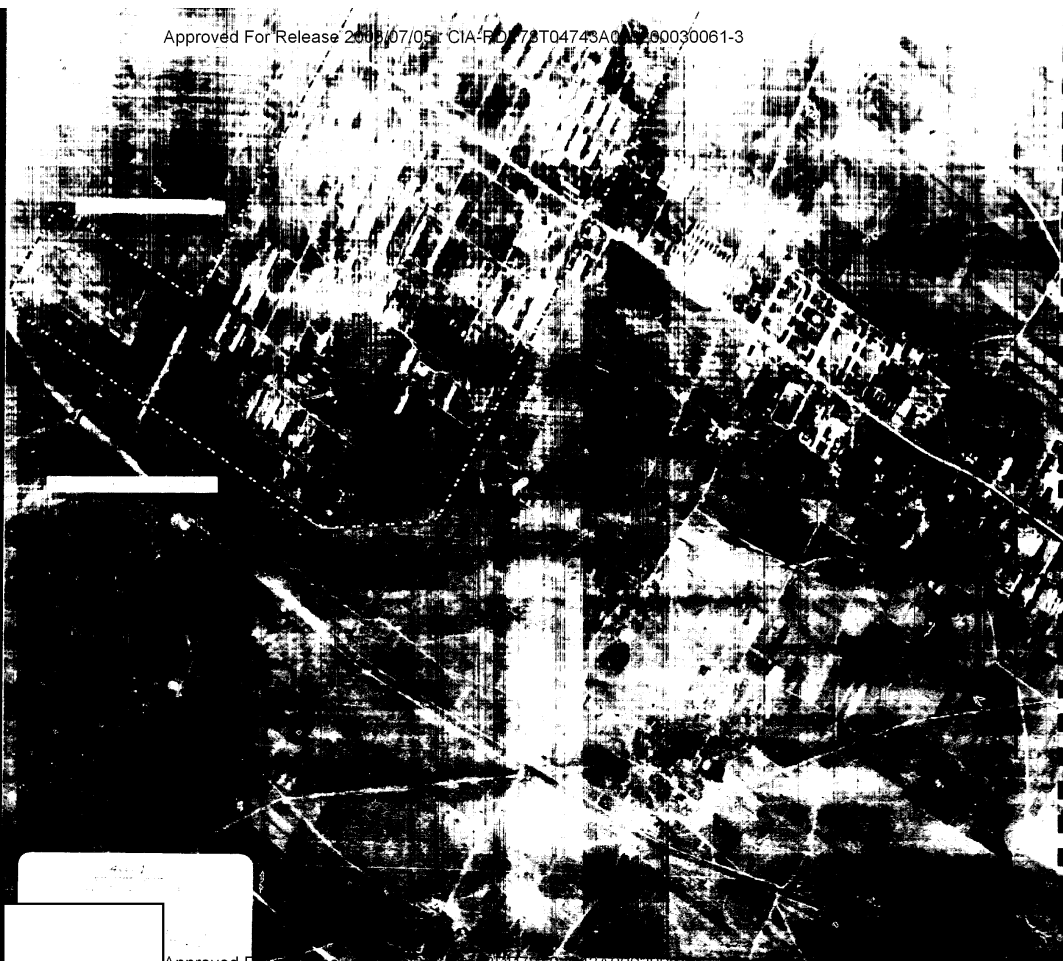
Enclosures:

10 Annotated Photo Enlargements
1 Annotated Map
(CIA/PID/IB-P-735 through 745/63)

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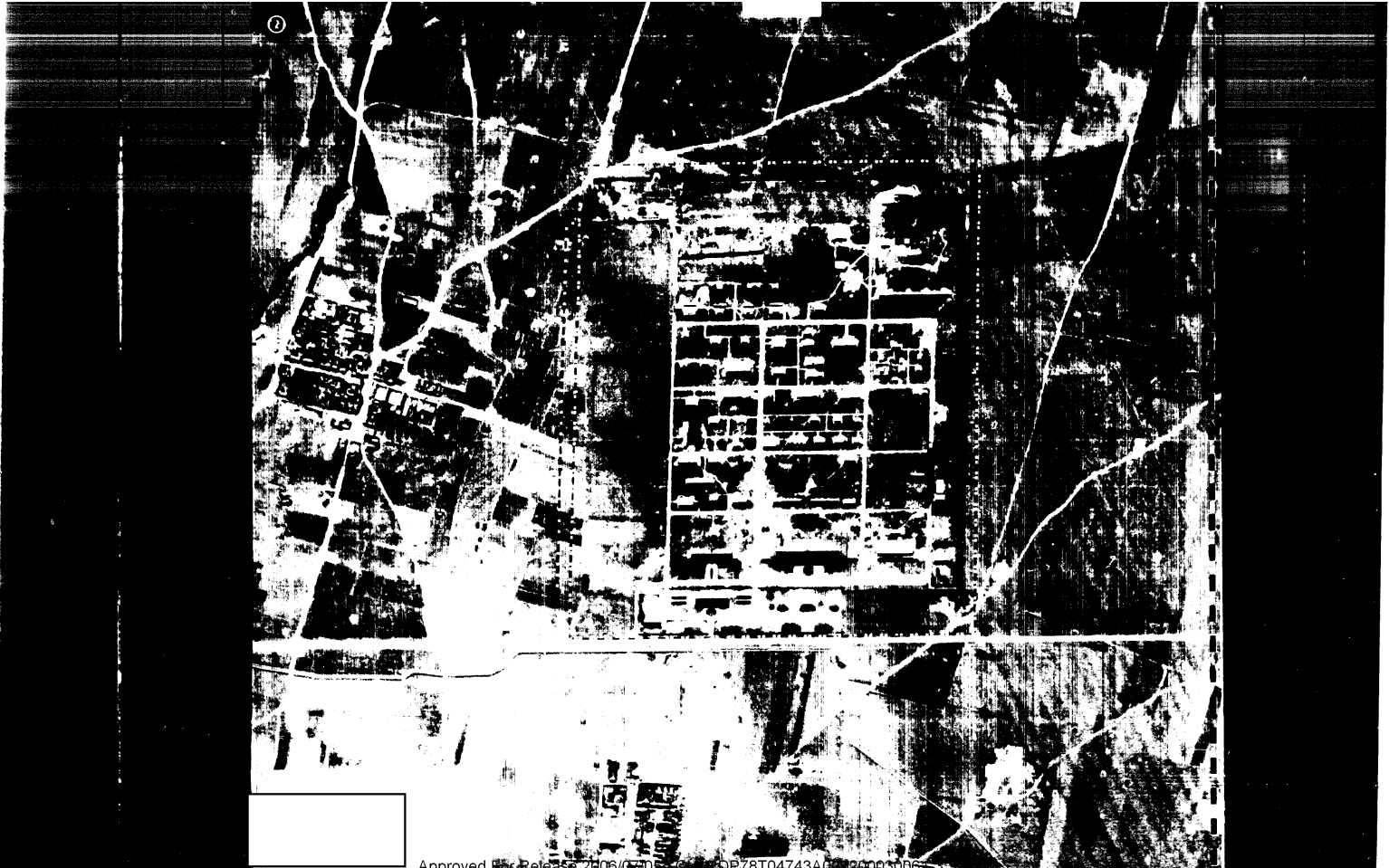
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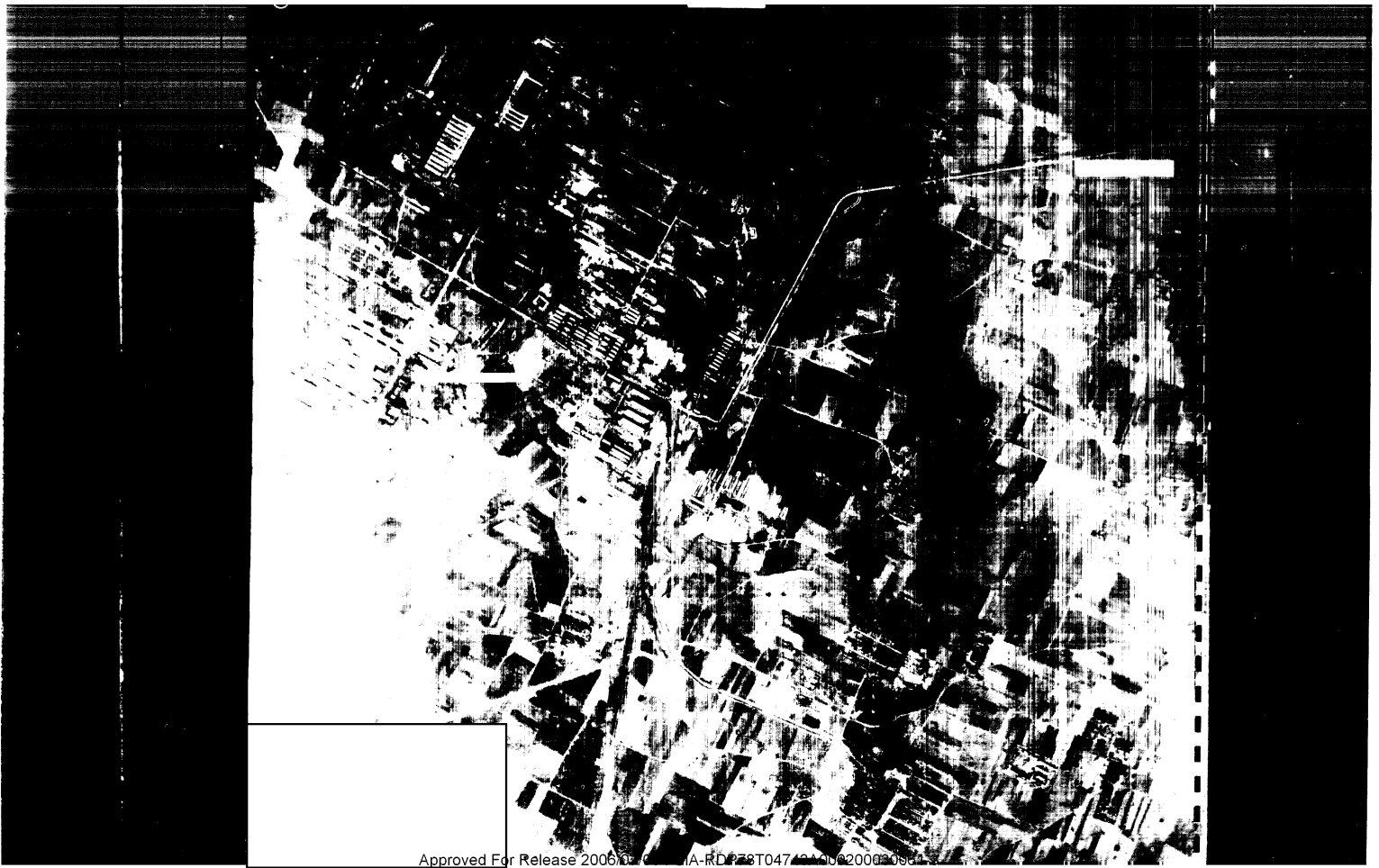


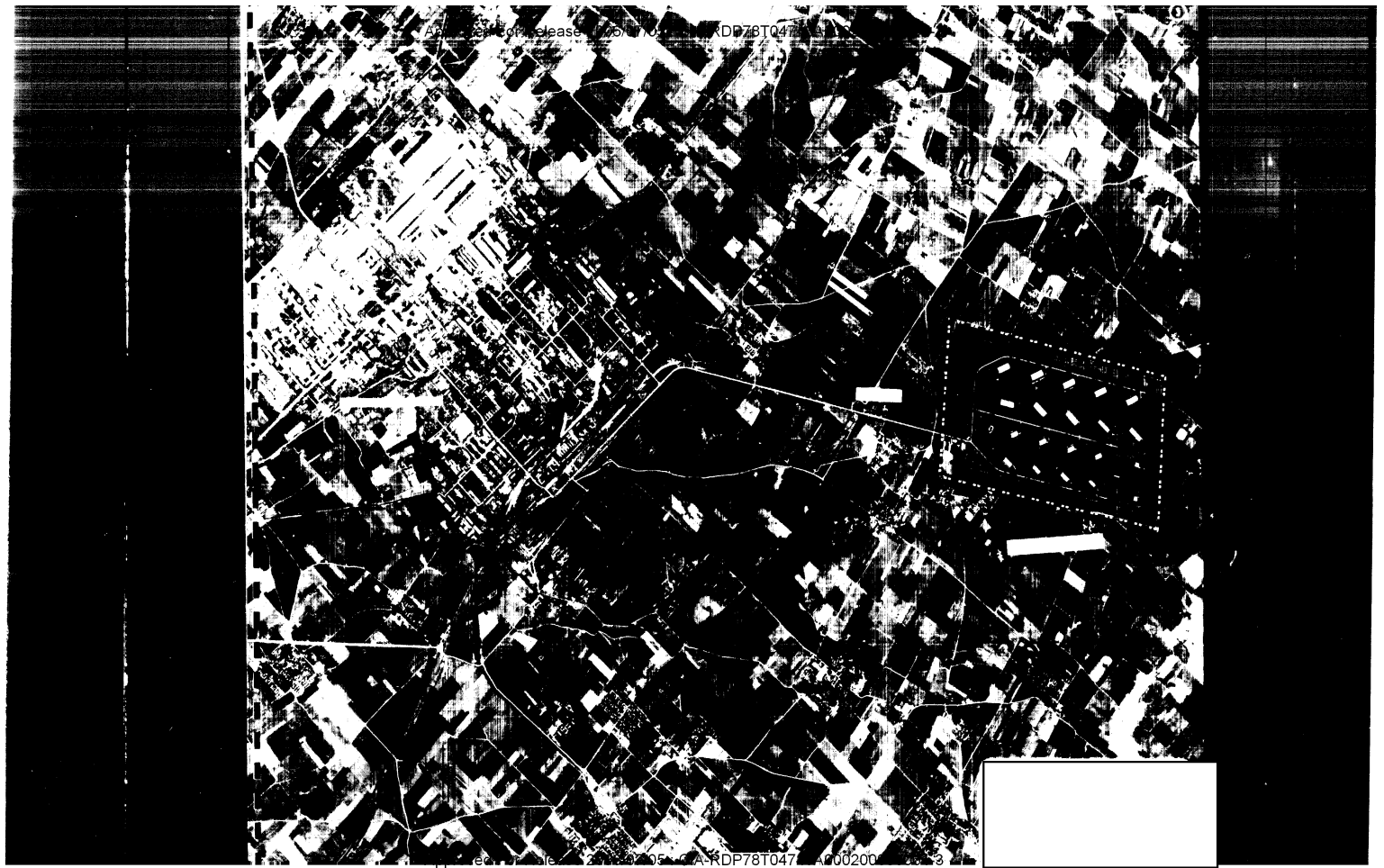
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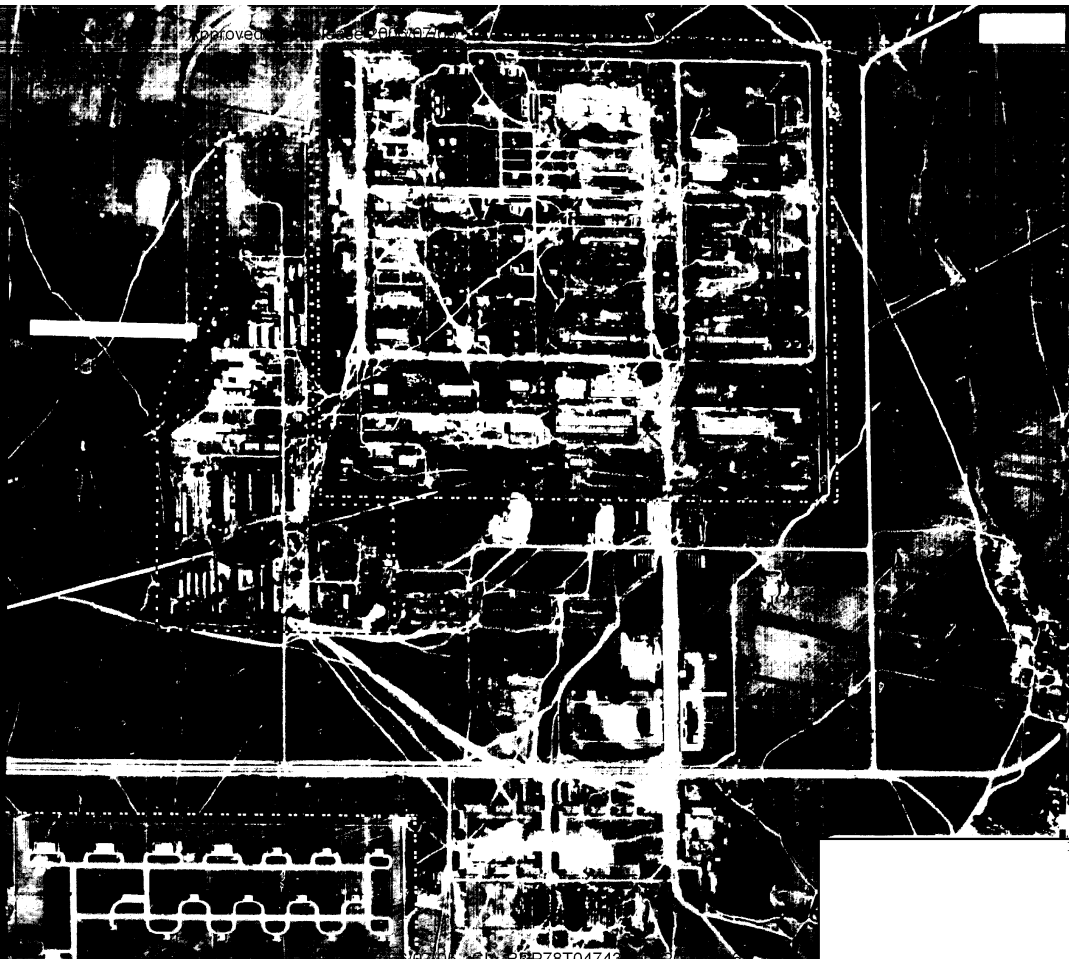


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